

Week Ending February 15

[SB44](#) is still sitting in the [Senate Select Committee on School Finance](#). On Tuesday, the remaining proponents of this bill had a chance to finish their testimony and the singular opponent had a chance to address the committee as well. This bill satisfies the court decision to constitutionally fund our schools. During this week's meeting, the committee chair asked for more information about how the money was spent that was allocated to schools last year. The committee chair also asked for a percentage of raises given to staff and wanted this broken down in all categories: teachers, non-certified staff, and administrators.

New Bills

[SB 47](#) will tie a scholarship to students who graduate from high school in three years. They must have been in a Kansas high school for three years and attend a Kansas college. A student will receive a scholarship of 95% of the base aide. This money will be available to the college once the student enrolls at the college. The school district will receive the remaining 5% the year the student would have been considered a senior or during their 4th year of high school.

[SB 128](#) will reduce the number of required safety drills to at least 9 per year, two tornado, four fire, and three crisis drills. USA-Kansas, KSSA, KASEA, and Senator Pat Pettey testified in favor of the bill.

[HB2150, the Kansas Hope Act](#), be careful to not let the name confuse you this bill would provide scholarships for any students who report bullying behavior. This bill creates a 'voucher' for students who simply report a bullying incident to school staff. From there, the student can transfer to any school with a percentage of their base money going to the other

school. All schools registered with the state are eligible to accept these students including private schools. Private schools do not have to accept these students whereas any public school would be required to accept the student. USA-Kansas testified as opposed.

[HB2166](#) requires students to take a personal finance course before graduating. Although this is a very important class for our students to take, many districts are already teaching this class or the curriculum is embedded in other classes at this time. USA-Kansas testified in opposition sharing the association's belief that local school districts should be in control of establishing graduation requirements.

In a similar bill [HB 2183](#) would require a computer science class as a graduation requirement. This bill has a hearing on Wednesday, February 20, USA-Kansas will have a similar testimony to that of HB2166.

[HB2197](#) is the recommendation to reamortize KPERS payments within the Governor's budget [HB2140](#). This bill simply extends the length of payback to KPERS, it does cost the state over \$7 billion over the life of the payback. It does not affect any benefits for retirees. Reamorization is not a four-letter word, HB 2197 was defeated on the House floor Thursday with a vote near party lines. The unfunded liability has been caused by the state not meeting their obligation to pay their share consistently over the last 10 years.

[HB 2233](#) will require boards of education to provide each teacher \$500 for classroom supplies. A hearing on this will be Monday, February 18, in the House Education Committee.